

## BIDISPERSE BULK MATERIALS IN CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

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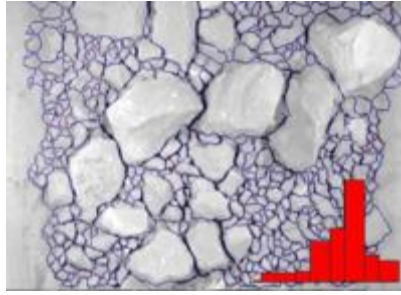
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**Abstract:** Bidisperse bulk materials, consisting of two distinct particle sizes, have gained significant attention in the field of chemical engineering due to their unique properties and potential applications. This literature review aims to explore the current state of research on bidisperse bulk materials, focusing on their synthesis, characterization, and various applications in chemical processes. The review also discusses the challenges and future prospects associated with the utilization of bidisperse materials in chemical engineering.

**Keywords:** materials, sizes, bidisperse, calcium carbonate, chemical engineering

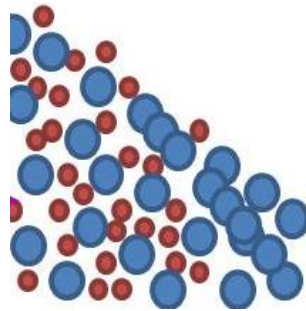
Bidisperse bulk materials refer to granular materials composed of two distinct particle sizes or types. These materials exhibit specific characteristics that differentiate them from monodisperse (single-sized) materials. Here are the main characteristics of bidisperse bulk materials:

1. **Particle Size Distribution:** Bidisperse materials have a mixture of two different particle sizes. The distribution of these particle sizes can vary, such as a combination of large and small particles or fine and coarse particles.



**Fig. 1. Particle Size Distribution [1]**

2. Segregation: Bidisperse materials tend to segregate, meaning that the larger and smaller particles have a tendency to separate during handling and transportation. This can result in a separation of particles based on size, leading to uneven distribution and potentially affecting material properties.



**Fig. 2. Segregation materials [2]**

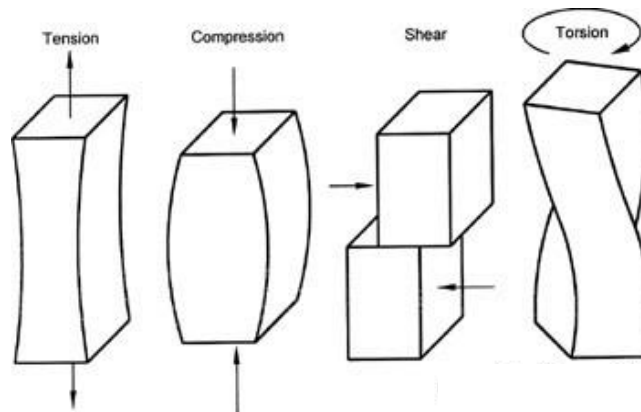
3. Packing Behavior: Bidisperse materials have different packing behaviors compared to monodisperse materials. The presence of two distinct particle sizes affects the arrangement and packing density of the particles. This can impact the flowability, compressibility, and permeability of the material.

4. Flow Properties: Bidisperse bulk materials can exhibit complex flow behaviors. The interaction between particles of different sizes can lead to variations in flow rates, flow patterns, and flowability across different regions of the material. This can impact the efficiency of processes such as material handling, conveying, and storage.

5. Mixing Characteristics: Mixing bidisperse materials can be challenging due to the differences in particle sizes. Achieving homogenous mixing requires careful control of mixing parameters such as mixing time, mixing speed, and mixing

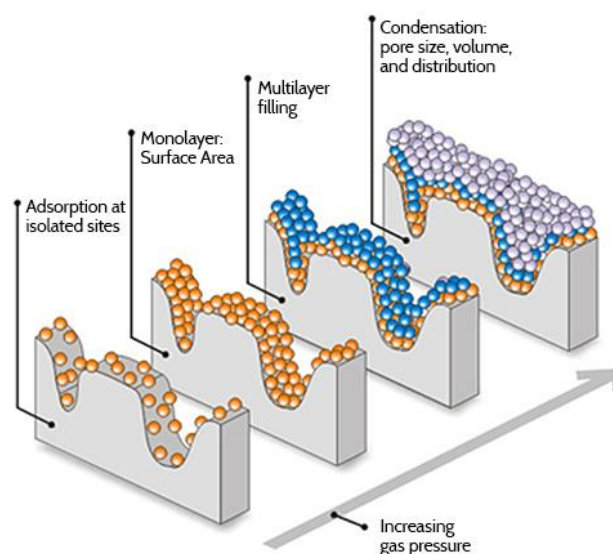
equipment. Inadequate mixing can result in poor product quality and variations in material properties.

6. Mechanical Properties: The presence of two particle sizes in bidisperse materials can influence their mechanical properties. The combination of large and small particles can affect the material's strength, cohesion, and frictional properties. These properties can impact the material's response to external forces and its behavior under different loading conditions.



**Fig. 3. Mechanical properties bidisperse materials [3]**

7. Surface Area: Bidisperse materials typically have a higher total surface area compared to monodisperse materials of the same volume. The presence of two particle sizes increases the interfacial area between particles, which can influence material reactivity, heat transfer, and other surface-related phenomena.



**Fig. 4. Determining of surface area materials [4]**

Understanding these characteristics is crucial for industries that deal with bidisperse bulk materials, such as construction, pharmaceuticals, food processing, and chemical processing. By considering the unique properties of bidisperse materials, engineers and researchers can optimize processes, enhance product quality, and address challenges associated with these materials.

The synthesis of bidisperse bulk materials involves the controlled mixing of two particle sizes, typically achieved through mechanical blending, fluidization, or granulation techniques. Several studies have investigated the influence of various parameters, such as particle size ratio, mixing time, and blending methods, on the resulting particle size distribution and morphology. Techniques such as laser diffraction, microscopy, and sieve analysis are commonly employed to characterize the bidisperse materials in terms of particle size, size distribution, shape, and packing density.

One of the key advantages of bidisperse bulk materials is their ability to enhance mass and heat transfer in chemical processes. The presence of two distinct particle sizes leads to improved interparticle contact, promoting efficient diffusion of reactants and products. This enhanced mass transfer capability facilitates higher reaction rates, improved selectivity, and increased overall process efficiency. Furthermore, the increased surface area-to-volume ratio in bidisperse materials contributes to enhanced heat transfer, enabling better temperature control during exothermic reactions.

Bidisperse bulk materials find applications in a wide range of chemical processes. In catalytic reactions, bidisperse catalysts have been shown to exhibit improved activity and selectivity compared to their monodisperse counterparts. The tailored reaction kinetics achieved through bidisperse materials have been exploited in gas-solid reactions, polymerization processes, and granulation techniques. Additionally, bidisperse materials have been utilized in drug delivery systems, where the combination of different particle sizes enables controlled release profiles and enhanced drug encapsulation.

While bidisperse bulk materials offer numerous advantages, several challenges

and limitations need to be addressed. Achieving and maintaining a desired particle size distribution can be challenging due to segregation, attrition, or aggregation during handling and processing. The control of particle size ratio and morphology across large-scale production is also a significant challenge. Moreover, the selection of appropriate mixing and blending techniques, as well as the optimization of reactor design and operating conditions, require careful consideration to maximize the benefits of bidisperse materials.

The field of bidisperse bulk materials in chemical engineering holds significant potential for innovation and process optimization. Future research efforts should focus on developing advanced synthesis techniques to achieve precise control over particle size distribution and morphology. The exploration of novel characterization methods will aid in understanding the relationship between bidisperse material properties and process performance. Additionally, computational modeling and simulation studies can provide valuable insights into the complex dynamics of bidisperse systems. The application of bidisperse materials in emerging fields, such as additive manufacturing and sustainable chemical processes, presents exciting opportunities for further exploration.

Calcium carbonate has significant applications in the chemical industry due to its versatile properties. Here are some of the chemical industry's main uses of calcium carbonate.



**Fig. 5. Bidisperse bulk materials (Calcium carbonate) [5]**

**Manufacturing of Calcium-based Chemicals:** Calcium carbonate is a primary source for producing various calcium-based chemicals. It is used as a raw material to produce calcium oxide (quicklime), calcium hydroxide (slaked lime), and calcium chloride. These chemicals find applications in water treatment, construction, food processing, and other industries.

Calcium carbonate is commonly used as a chemical process pH regulator and neutralizing agent. Its ability to neutralize acids makes it useful in wastewater treatment, mining, and chemical manufacturing industries.

Calcium carbonate serves as a filler and extender in producing various chemicals. It enhances the bulk and properties of materials such as adhesives, sealants, paints, and coatings. Calcium carbonate improves these chemical formulations' viscosity, rheology, and stability.

Calcium carbonate is employed as catalyst support in various chemical reactions. It provides a stable and porous structure that can hold catalysts, enhancing their performance and efficiency. Catalysts supported on calcium carbonate are used in petroleum refining, chemical synthesis, and environmental processes.

Bidisperse bulk materials have emerged as a promising area of research in chemical engineering, offering enhanced mass and heat transfer, tailored reaction kinetics, and improved process efficiency. Synthesis techniques, characterization methods, and the understanding of their impact on various chemical processes have advanced significantly. However, challenges related to particle size control, scalability, and reactor design still need to be addressed. With continued research and development efforts, bidisperse bulk materials are poised to make substantial contributions to the advancement of chemical engineering, enabling innovative and efficient processes in the future.

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